

**State Maritime Office. (CGS Sec. 13b-51b)** Organizationally located within the Department of Transportation (presently located within DOT's Bureau of Public Transportation)

### **Statutory Responsibilities**

- (1) Responsible for maritime operations, including the State Pier in New London, the Connecticut River ferries and such other operational responsibilities as shall be assigned to it;
- (2) serve as the Governor's principal maritime policy advisor;
- (3) serve as the liaison between the state and federal, local and private entities involved in maritime policy activities;
- (4) coordinate the state's maritime policy activities;
- (5) encourage year-round use of water-related industries;
- (6) work with the DECD and other state, local and private entities to maximize the economic potential of Connecticut's ports and other maritime resources;
- (7) conduct necessary research and planning activities;
- (8) assess potential state investments in ports and other maritime facilities;
- (9) provide staff support to the Connecticut Maritime Commission (CGA13b-51a)
- (10) provide staff support to the Connecticut Pilot Commission (CGS 15-13c);
- (11) undertake such other responsibilities as may be assigned to it by the commissioner or the Governor.

Additionally, though not defined in CGS Sec 13b-51b, administratively oversees the CT Harbor Master program (CGS 15-1), responsible for the licensing of the CT marine pilots (CGS 15-13) and responsible for the State Grant in Aid for Harbor (Port) Improvements (CGS 13b-55 through 57).

### **Personnel**

Immediate office staff consists of a Transportation Maritime Manager (Beck), a Transportation Engineer 3 (Salvatore), a Transportation Planner 2 (Stevens), a Harbor Liaison (Rossiter),

Operational staff on two CT River Ferries consists two Ferry Master Captains (Stokes and Marshall), four Ferry Captains (T.Darcy, Kennedy, Lee, Clemente) and four Ferry First Mates (Brooks, D. Darcy, Spatola, D'Arcio)

## **Statutory References**

**Sec. 13b-51. Jurisdiction over harbors and navigable waterways.** The commissioner shall have jurisdiction over the harbors and navigable waterways of the state, with all the powers and duties prescribed in this chapter, in title 15, and as otherwise provided by law. The powers and duties of all existing harbor boards or boards of harbor commissioners under either the general statutes or special acts of this state shall be vested in the commissioner but all such boards shall continue in the department to assist the commissioner in an advisory capacity, and to perform such duties as he may delegate to them. Harbor masters and deputy harbor masters appointed by the Governor under section 15-1 shall be subject to the direction and control of the commissioner, and shall be responsible to him for the safe and efficient operation of the harbors over which they have jurisdiction. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to limit or in any way derogate from the powers and authority of the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection under title 25.

**Sec. 13b-51a. Connecticut Maritime Commission. Establishment. Members.**

**Duties.** (a) There shall be in the Department of Transportation a Connecticut Maritime Commission

(d) The commission shall (1) advise the Commissioner of Transportation, the Governor and the General Assembly concerning the state's maritime policy and operations; (2) develop and recommend to the Governor and the General Assembly a maritime policy for the state; (3) support the development of Connecticut's maritime commerce and industries, including its deep water ports; (4) recommend investments and actions, including dredging, required in order to preserve and enhanced maritime commerce and industries; (5) conduct studies and present recommendations concerning maritime issues; (6) support the development of Connecticut's ports, including; identifying new opportunities for the ports, analyzing the potential for and encouraging private investment in the ports and recommending policies which support port operations.

**Sec. 13b-53. Acquisition, construction, maintenance and operation of water transportation and related facilities. Lease or grant of interest at State Pier or navigation property. Concessions privilege.** The commissioner may, on behalf of the state, acquire, own, construct, maintain or operate, upon, at or near the seaboard or any navigable waterway, land, or any harbor, wharf, dock, pier, quay, canal, slip or basin, or any appropriate harbor facility, shed, warehouse of any kind, vault, railroad track, yard, terminal or equipment, or such other facility related to the transportation of goods or people by water as he deems necessary to the fulfillment of the purposes of this chapter. The commissioner, with the approval of the State Properties Review Board, the Office of Policy and Management and the Attorney General, may lease or grant any interest at the State Pier in New London or any navigation property owned

or under the control of the Department of Transportation to any person and in any manner, as he deems appropriate, except that after initiating such approval, the commissioner may temporarily lease any such interest with the approval of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management. A temporary lease shall be effective only until a final decision is made by the Office of Policy and Management, the State Properties Review Board and the Attorney General. Leases of land of the state shall be for periods determined by the commissioner with the approval of the State Properties Review Board and may provide for the construction of buildings on the land. The commissioner may confer the privilege of concessions of supplying, upon such facilities, goods, commodities, service and facilities.

**Sec. 13b-54. Cooperation with other authorities, agencies and persons. Development of water transportation.** The commissioner shall, on behalf of the state, consult and cooperate with appropriate federal authorities regarding any river or harbor improvement or other improvement in facilities or services relating to transportation by water, or the construction of any bridge over the navigable waters of the state. The commissioner shall confer with representatives of municipalities, businesses and other organizations concerning the maintenance of adequate water terminal facilities, shall promote greater coordination between water and other modes of transportation, shall advise relative to the proper mechanical devices for handling freight, and shall adopt such other means, by surveys and recommendations, as will conserve and develop transportation by water.

**Sec. 13b-55a. Harbor improvement projects.** (a) In addition to municipal requests for a grant-in-aid pursuant to section 13b-57, harbor improvement projects may be initiated by the Commissioner of Transportation on behalf of the state or for the state on behalf of the federal government. Recommendations on the prioritization or inclusion of projects shall be submitted to the commissioner by the Connecticut Maritime Commission. The department shall contract for the provision of goods and services to harbors and waterways for such improvements, and shall provide the funding required under such contracts, except that the commissioner may enter into agreements with other state agencies or municipalities for such agencies or municipalities to provide the funding for any of such contracts. The department shall administer all contracts entered into under this section.

(c) Harbor improvement projects include the preparation of plans, studies and construction for the alteration and improvement of various state, municipal and other properties in or adjacent to the waters of the state, for the purpose of improving the economy and infrastructure of the state.

**Sec. 13b-55b. Harbor improvement account. Deposit and expenditure of funds.**

(a) There is established an account to be known as the "harbor improvement account" which shall be a separate, non-lapsing account within the General Fund. There shall be deposited in the account: (1) The proceeds of notes, bonds or other obligations issued by the state for the purpose of deposit therein and use in accordance with the permissible uses thereof; (2) funds appropriated by the General Assembly for the purpose of deposit therein and use in accordance with the permissible uses thereof; and (3) any other funds required or permitted by law to be deposited in the account. The funds in said account shall be expended by the Commissioner of Transportation for the purpose of initiating harbor improvement projects in accordance with section 13b-55a and for the purposes described in subsection (b) of this section.

(b) The harbor improvement account may be used for federal dredging projects (1) to support, in full or in part, local and state matching requirements for such projects; (2) to cover the incremental costs associated with applicable environmental regulatory requirements or management practices, including beneficial use; and (3) to cover part or all of the costs of such projects in the absence of adequate federal funds. If any account funds are used for the purpose described in subdivision (3) of this subsection, the commissioner shall pursue reimbursement to the account from the federal government.

**Sec. 13b-57. State grants-in-aid for harbor improvement projects.** The state, acting by and in the discretion of the Commissioner of Transportation, may enter into a contract with a municipality, acting by its harbor improvement agency, for state financial assistance for a harbor improvement project pursuant to a harbor improvement plan approved by the Commissioner of Transportation in the form of a state grant-in-aid. Any such application for state financial assistance under this section shall be submitted by the Commissioner of Transportation to the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection for his review. Said Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall submit a written report to the Commissioner of Transportation, setting forth his findings regarding such application.

**Sec. 15-1. Harbor masters.** The Governor shall appoint a harbor master, and may appoint a deputy harbor master, for each of the harbors of New Haven, Norwich, Bridgeport, Stamford, Norwalk, Stonington, New London and Branford, and may appoint a suitable number of harbor masters and deputy harbor masters in any town in this state which has navigable waters within its limits, provided the appointment of a harbor master or deputy harbor master for the harbor of any municipality which has adopted a harbor management plan, pursuant to chapter 444a, shall be made by the Governor from a list of not less than three nominees submitted by the municipality's harbor management commission. Harbor masters shall have the general care and supervision of the harbors and navigable waterways over which they have jurisdiction,

subject to the direction and control of the Commissioner of Transportation, and shall be responsible to the commissioner for the safe and efficient operation of such harbors and navigable waterways in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. The harbor masters or deputy harbor masters shall exercise their duties in a manner consistent with any harbor management plan adopted pursuant to section 22a-113m for a harbor over which they have jurisdiction. The commissioner may delegate any of his powers and duties under this chapter to such harbor masters or to any existing board of harbor commissioners, but shall at all times be vested with responsibility for the overall supervision of the harbors and navigable waterways of the state.

**Sec. 15-13. Pilots; qualifications; license fee; bond; suspension or revocation of license; inactive status; limited licenses; regulations.** (a) The Commissioner of Transportation shall license as many residents of this state and any other state as said commissioner deems necessary and finds qualified to act as pilots for one year in any of the ports and waters of this state including the Connecticut waters of Long Island Sound.

**Sec. 15-13c. Connecticut Pilot Commission. Members. Appointments. Duties.** (a) There is created within the Department of Transportation, for administrative purposes only, the Connecticut Pilot Commission to assist and advise the Commissioner of Transportation on matters relating to the licensure of pilots, the safe conduct of vessels and the protection of the ports and waters of the state, including the waters of Long Island Sound.

(e) The commission shall, subject to the approval of the commissioner in his sole discretion, set: (1) The required qualifications of pilots for eligibility for licensure, including background, training, length of service and apprenticeship; (2) examination requirements for obtaining a pilot's or other type of operating license; and (3) the appropriate number of state-licensed pilots necessary for the safe, efficient and proper operations in the ports and waters of the state, including the waters of Long Island Sound. In setting these requirements, the commission may not consider the licenses of pilots by other jurisdictions as a disqualifying factor.

(f) The commission shall advise the commissioner on (1) the establishment of fair and reasonable rates of pilotage, pursuant to section 15-14, including establishment of a hearing process for the setting of fair and reasonable rates of pilotage and licensure fees; (2) the policy of the state on the establishment of a rotation system for the assignment of pilots; (3) the policy of the state on the issuance of reciprocal licenses to pilots licensed in other states; (4) the enhancement of safety and protection of the marine environment during the operation of vessels and the prevention of oil spills and other marine incidents; (5) the proper equipment required on a vessel and the

operation of vessels used by pilots for embarkation and disembarkation; (6) the designation of pilot boarding stations; (7) the proper safety equipment provided by vessels to enable pilots to safely board vessels; (8) the state's policy relative to matters of interstate pilotage; and (9) any other matter requested by the commissioner.

(g) The commission shall: (1) Assist in the preparation of examinations for pilot licensure and other operating certificates; (2) evaluate the examination results of applicants for a pilot license and make appropriate recommendations concerning such applicants' qualifications; (3) assist in the review and monitoring of the performance of pilots, including compliance with state policies, procedures and regulations; (4) review applications for reciprocal licensure and make appropriate recommendations concerning such pilots' qualifications; (5) recommend the duties of pilots for the reporting of faulty pilot boarding and disembarkation systems and of violations of any state laws; (6) review and investigate any marine incident or casualty and conduct hearings to determine the causes of any such incident; (7) investigate and make recommendations on disciplinary measures, including such measures as letters of caution, admonition or reprimand and licensure suspension or forfeiture, including disciplinary matters relative to alcohol or drug abuse; (8) retain an independent investigator to compile a comprehensive factual record of any marine incident or casualty; (9) assist in the review of complaints filed with the commissioner; and (10) assist in the preparation of any report or matter relative to pilotage.